

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Deborah A. Norkavage called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR	DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE	PRESENT
1 ST DISTRICT	JOHN JAREMCHUK, JR.	PRESENT
2 ND DISTRICT	STEVEN BURG	PRESENT
3 RD DISTRICT	THOMAS S. NOVAK, JR.	PRESENT
4 TH DISTRICT	CHARLES MCKEWEN	PRESENT
5 TH DISTRICT	JOANN I. PERSONTI	PRESENT
6 TH DISTRICT	JOHN N. PASQUALE, JR.	PRESENT

Town Manager, John Giles – Present
Town Solicitor, Edward McNally – Absent
Lieutenant Christopher Workman – Present

Finance Committee Members:
Amy Olga – Present
Treasurer, Paul Chalfant, Absent
Ron Russo - Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Manager, John Giles reported the actual deficit should have been \$266,627.00 at the end of last night's meeting, not \$254,627.60 which was originally reported. The corrected deficit amount is due to Code expenses, workman's compensation, business, vehicle and health insurance which resulted in a reduction of \$53,150.00. He further stated the new current deficit is \$213,494.00. Mr. Giles also mentioned he received a phone call from Councilman Novak requesting scenarios and the type of affect it would have on raising the mill rate on property taxes, raising the base tax or an increase on the property taxes by a certain amount. Mr. Giles supplied Mayor and Council with the different scenarios and what revenue would be brought in according to those scenarios.

Mayor and Council considered the following proposed budgets:

2010-2011 Proposed Operating Budget

2010-2011 Proposed Revenue Budget

2010-2011 Capital Budget

2010-2011 Proposed Operating Budget

Public Safety

Lieutenant Workman reported on the Fines line item, which the year to date is \$124,834.90, with approximately \$11,000 to \$15,000 coming in a month. He anticipates receiving one more check for this fiscal year. He reported on the Red Light Camera line item, stating that money was received only two months out of the year for this.

Lieutenant Workman verified the salary figure of \$476,000 on the Salary line item does include the 3% increase based on the police pay scale, that was passed on June 22, 2010 but does not include for position of Chief.

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to budget \$69,000.00 for the proposed salary figure for Chief of Police. The motion was seconded by Councilman Novak.

At this time discussion occurred regarding the proposed salary for a newly hired Chief of Police.

VOTE:

1st District Councilman Jaremchuk – No, 2nd District Councilman Burg – Yes, 3rd District Councilman Novak – Yes, 4th District Councilman McKewen – Yes, 5th District Councilwoman Personti - Yes, 6th District Councilman Pasquale –Yes, Mayor Norkavage – Yes

VOTE: 6 – 1

Motion carried

Councilman Jaremchuk voted no because he felt if the new Chief of Police was hired from within the department, the Chief's salary wouldn't need to be as high as the proposed salary.

Lieutenant Workman reported with the proposed Chief's salary of \$69,000.00, this would bring the Salary line item to \$545,000.00, Payroll Taxes line item to \$17,700.00, Workman's Compensation line item to \$40,200.00, Health Insurance line item to \$109,650.00, and the 6% Police Pension Contribution of \$4,140.00, and for a total of \$32,700.00 to the Administration Department's Police Pension Contribution line item.

Lieutenant Workman reported the proposed budgeted salary for the Salary-Clerical line item is \$40,100.00, which is based on the Town's pay scale with the 3% increase. The Salary – Seasonal line item is for \$9,300.00 which is due to not receiving the monies through a grant any longer. The Salary – Part Time Records Clerk line item is being increased by \$1.00 per hour which the proposed budget would be \$12,480.00.

Councilman Pasquale reported he applied for and was granted a Homeland Security Grant for his daughter's after prom party in order to help keep the kids off the streets.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to cut the proposed budget Salary for Part Time Records Clerk line item back by 3% to be \$11,783.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Novak.

VOTE:

1st District Councilman Jaremchuk – No, 2nd District Councilman Burg – Yes, 3rd District Councilman Novak – Yes, 4th District Councilman McKewen – Yes, 5th District Councilwoman Personti - Yes, 6th District Councilman Pasquale –Yes, Mayor Norkavage – Yes

VOTE: 6 – 1

Motion carried

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Norkavage to budget the Public Safety's Overtime line item for \$17,500.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE:

1st District Councilman Jaremchuk – No, 2nd District Councilman Burg – No, 3rd District Councilman Novak – Yes, 4th District Councilman McKewen – Yes, 5th District Councilwoman Personti - Yes, 6th District Councilman Pasquale –Yes, Mayor Norkavage – Yes

VOTE: 5 – 2

Motion carried

Councilman Burg and Councilman Jaremchuk voted no due to the increased events that will be occurring in the Town throughout the year which would require more overtime for the police.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to budget the Public Safety's Training line item for \$1,500.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Personti.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

2010-2011 Capital Budget

Public Safety Department

After Councilman Burg made a motion and amended it twice he eventually ended up withdrawing all his motions.

Councilman Jaremchuk made a motion and ended up withdrawing the motion.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to authorize the Public Safety Department under Capital to expend \$33,872.00 to purchase a new vehicle complete with the outfitting of the vehicle, with the amount of \$32,850.00 coming out of the Red Light Camera line item to purchase this vehicle and anything additional would come out of the general fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

Mr. Giles reported to Mayor and Council that the Town of Elsmere's Police Pension Committee has received its actuarial report. This report recommends that Council fund the pension for this year \$335,938.00. The Pension Committee voted to ask Council to allot these funds with the minimum request of \$96,230.00.

Councilman Jaremchuk requested to defer action on the aforementioned at this time.

Mr. Giles reported if there is no allocation to the pension, according to the Charter we are still required to come up with \$291,886.76 in either additional revenue or additional cuts to the operating budget.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to approve the Capital expenditures requested from the Town side coming from the general fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Novak.

Councilman Novak called the question.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

Mr. Giles reported to Mayor and Council the additional funding sources. He stated there is \$327,340.04 in the Town contingency fund as of June 22, 2010. There is \$697,149.40 in the Town general fund that is not unrestricted. He further stated there is \$1.1 million in the bank, however, \$413,000.00 is restricted. Furthermore, the expenses will come out of that between now and the end of the year, which would leave approximately \$550,000.00.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Jaremchuk to remove from the general fund \$335,886.76 and add it to our proposed revenue budget which would in turn balance the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

Councilwoman Personti stated she believed the overall budget should be looked over one more time to see if anything else could be cut.

Councilman Jaremchuk commented they should vote on approving the budget this evening, and at tomorrow night's budget hearing to brainstorm as to what could be done in the future in order to raise additional revenue.

Mr. Giles stated he believed the only thing left to cut would be service. He further stated the budget has been looked over numerous times and everything has been cut as much as it could be, with half the number of employees doing more services.

At this time a discussion occurred regarding different options in order to bring in additional revenue.

ACTION: Councilman Jaremchuk amended his motion to add that annual yearly statement for the Police funding under Title 22, Section 1601(c) of the Delaware Code primary funding source of the Department of Public Safety the departments approved Operating and Capital Budget shall be the revenues realized by the collection of the Town's realty transfer taxes, and should these funds be depleted the remaining approved expenses should be funded out of the Town's general fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

Mayor and Council considered Resolution 10-10.

A Resolution setting the 2010-2011 Fiscal Years Property Tax Rates.

Mr. Giles reported proposed Resolution 10-10 makes no changes to the current tax rate.

Mayor and Council agreed to discuss Resolution 10-10 at the June 24, 2010 Special Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Tom Mitten of Oak Hill commented on how well the budget meetings were conducted in the past few days. He further commented in reference to raising revenue, that perhaps giving the residents of the Town an option if they would prefer an increase in their property taxes or would they prefer to pay for their own trash services.

Councilman Burg commented about reconvening on July 1, 2010 in order to discuss the applications that were received for the position of Chief of Police.

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Burg to hold a Special Meeting on July 1, 2010 the day after the close of accepting applications for position of Chief of Police, to hold Public Session and then adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and not return to Public Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Pasquale.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: A motion was made by Councilman Pasquale to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Burg.

VOTE:

VOTE: 7 – 0

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

These minutes summarize agenda and other issues discussed at this Council Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tapes may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

DEBORAH A. NORKAVAGE
MAYOR

JOANN I. PERSONTI
SECRETARY